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Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

With this issue, the *Journal of Transportation and Statistics* completes its first year of publication. The occasion provides a chance to reflect on the mission of the Journal and to clarify its editorial policy. It is also an opportunity to thank Dr. T.R. Lakshmanan, first Director of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics and founder of this journal, for his innovative leadership and intellectual inspiration.

The JTS is about transportation information for an information age. Its fundamental objectives remain unchanged:

- measuring transportation activity and the performance of transportation systems,
- measuring and analyzing the importance of transportation and its consequences,
- measuring and analyzing transportation trends, and
- advancing the science of acquiring, validating, managing, and disseminating transportation information.

As a journal of a federal statistical agency, the JTS will continue to focus on data, description, and analysis and will explicitly avoid policy studies.

Response to the Journal's calls for papers has been good, and I am pleased with the quality of the papers we have published. I thank the authors for their contributions and our editorial board and reviewers for their invaluable expert assistance.

As soon as possible, and most likely by the middle of 1999, it is our intention to begin publishing on a quarterly basis. At that time, we will add a new feature to the Journal: a comprehensive statistical series of transportation indicators. The series will build over a period of a year and will cover all modes and pertain to nearly every major aspect of transportation, from safety to mobility, economics, the human and natural environment, and national security. We hope that this new feature will increase the value of the JTS to its readers.

Your interests, ideas, and recommendations for improving the JTS are important to us. We invite you to communicate with us via e-mail at journal@bts.gov, by visiting our website at www.bts.gov/programs/jts/, or by writing to me at the address on page ii of the journal. Thank you for your interest and support.

DAVID L. GREENE

Editor-in-Chief

